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BULLETIN OF THE CITY ART MUSEUM OF ST. LOUIS

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TEMPLE JAR

MING DYNASTY

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

WESTERN ART

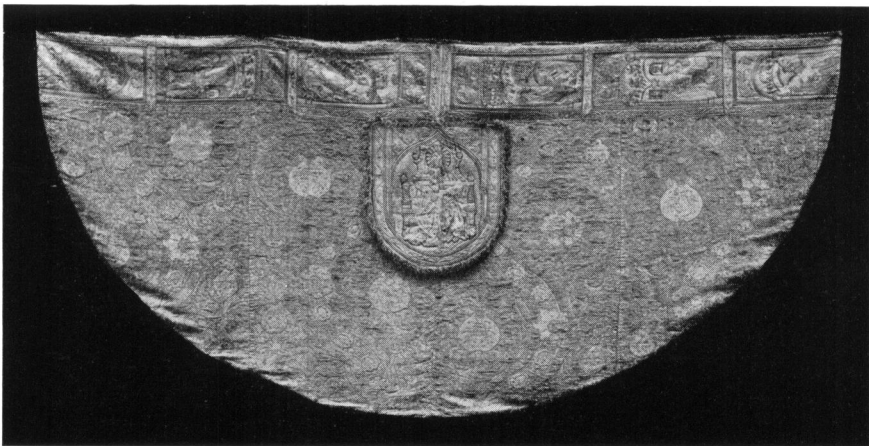
AN OLD SPANISH COPE AND CHASUBLE

NOTABLE additions to the textiles in the Museum are a cope and chasuble of Spanish work, attributed to textile workers of Toledo in the latter part of the fifteenth century. The material is red and gold brocade enriched in the figure of the pattern, a pomegranate design, with gold tinsel in small loops, which gives a shimmering effect to the large repeating pattern; the open spaces revealing the ground are loosely covered with gold colored silk and gold thread. The orphreys of both cope and chasuble are in polychrome embroidery, with borders of gold thread woven over cords and raised patterns.

A close examination shows the very skillful manner in which the weaver and embroiderer has treated his colors and textures in the figure subjects, using the solid ground of the weave for his flesh color, drawn his details in em-

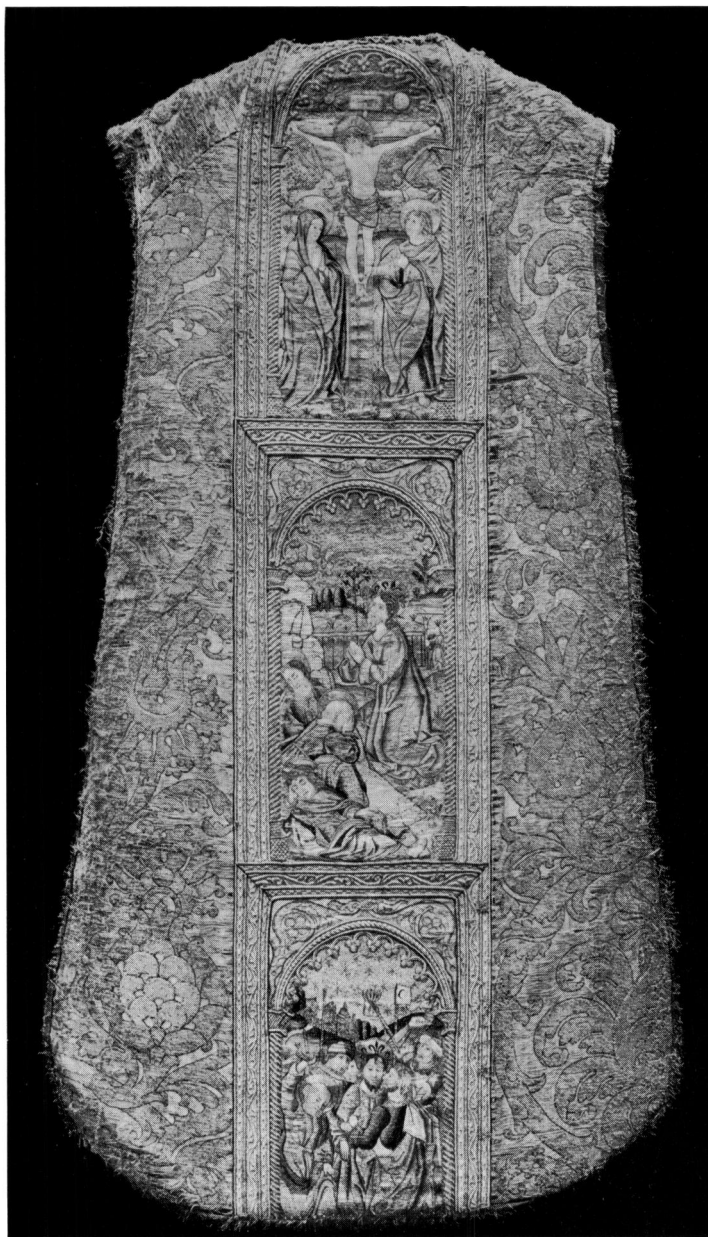
broidery, and by a loose or tight weave of his gold thread produced the difference between the brilliancy of the halos and the more sparing enrichment of the draperies. The pure colors of the garments are beautifully toned in this manner, by long loose threads or short stitches; the silks in unfading dyes, and the effect that of delicate painting. The work in these pieces truly merits the old designation, the Flower, applied to the band of ornament down the front and back of the chasuble.

The subjects on the orphrey of the cope are The Nativity, The Virgin and Child with Angels, The Circumcision, The Adoration of the Magi, The Visitation, and The Annunciation. On the back of the chasuble The Crucifixion, The Agony in the Garden, and the Betrayal; on the front The Deposition from the Cross, and The Resurrection. On the Capuchon or hood of the cope the subject is The Trinity.



COPE, SPANISH

XV CENTURY



CHASUBLE, SPANISH

XV CENTURY